(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will be premature at this stage to give the details.

(c) and (d) Major portion of the existing three national waterways is already open for transportation.

Increase in road transport freights

†1996. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road transport freights have been on the increase in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the annual increase rate during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such increase in the freights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Under Section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the power to fix the freight rate vests with the State Governments and not with the Central Government. In practice these rates are governed by market forces. The information in this regard is not complied by this Ministry.

Completion of highway corridor

1997. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highway project of North-South, East-West corridor comprising 7300 kms is moving at a very slow pace; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the part of the project that has been completed and by when the whole project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Most of the North-South, East-West Corridor has been taken up under Phase-II of the National Highways Development Project. Award of work under Phase-II is in progress.

(b) As on 30th June, 2005, 707 Km of length pertaining to North-South and East-West Corridor has been completed. It is expected that the remaining stretch would be completed by 2008.

Roads in Tenth Plan

1998. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of work of development of roads completed under the allocation made for road projects in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there has been delay in construction of roads within time bound programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by NHAI for speedy construction work of roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The details of the percentage of work of development of road projects completed by Ministry. NHAI and BRO in the Tenth Five Year Plan period are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) There have been delays in the completion of some of the development schemes due to Land Acquisition, shifting of utilities, poor performance of contractors etc.

(c) The NHDP Phase-I mainly consists of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), which was originally scheduled for completion by December, 2004 is likely to be completed only 92% by December, 2005. NHDP Phase-II which